
Effective: August 1, 1997

96.00 Utility Accommodation

Supersedes: April 1, 1995

96.30 Freeways

96.35 Utility Access

By: Director, Bureau of Highway Operations

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A. General Policy

When permitted by the Department, access for constructing or servicing a utility along or across a freeway shall be limited to:

1. Frontage roads where provided.
2. Gates where permitted.
3. Nearby or adjacent public roads and streets.
4. Trails along or near the right-of-way line which connects only to an intersecting road.

When a gate is allowed, provisions to guard against unauthorized use shall be required.

Entry to the median area should be restricted to nearby grade separation structures, stream channel crossings, or other suitable locations not involving direct access from the freeway traffic lanes or ramps.

The utility shall indicate in its permit application the anticipated maintenance procedures for the proposed installation.

B. Special Cases: Access from Freeway Lanes/Ramps

When existing utility supports, manholes, or other appurtenances are located in medians, interchange areas, or otherwise inaccessible portions of the freeway, access to them from the freeway traffic lanes or ramps may be permitted. A freeway lane closure may also be allowed to facilitate access provided the utility has an approved traffic control plan from the Department. Access would only be allowed in special cases and only by permits issued to the utility specifying the conditions that will ensure both motorist and worker safety.

C. Security Fence

The Department's security fence shall not be opened unless otherwise stated in a utility's permit. If the fence is damaged, the utility shall repair or replace the fence before concluding its work operations at the end of the day.

C. Security Fence (continued)

If the existing security fence must be opened to facilitate the utility operation, it shall be disassembled and, upon completion of the permitted work, reinstalled in its original location to a uniform profile. All fencing material, with the exception of the posts, may be reused. New posts shall be supplied by the utility. Any fencing material damaged during removal or reinstallation shall be replaced with new material.

During utility construction, the security of the freeway shall be maintained at all times by the installation of a temporary fence. The temporary fence shall be placed between the freeway and the actual work area.

A utility may request to disassemble a portion of the security fence and install a temporary or permanent gate (or gates) in its location. The gate(s) should match the profile of the adjacent security fence. Wood posts may be substituted for the metal posts supporting the gate(s). Any fencing material damaged with the installation of the gate(s) shall be replaced with new material. The gates and any other fencing material shall be supplied by the utility at its own expense.

The gate(s) shall be locked whenever the site is unattended by the utility. The utility shall provide at least two keys per lock to the Department's district chief maintenance engineer.

All work performed and the fencing and gate materials supplied shall conform with the Department's specifications.